OIPE JC112 DEC 09 2004 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Rooij et al.

Serial No.: 10/817,164

Filed: April 1, 2004

For: STORING AND DETECTING NUCLEIC ACID ADMINISTERED TO A SOLID CARRIER

Confirmation No.: To be assigned

Examiner: To be assigned

Group Art Unit: To be assigned

Attorney Docket No.: 2183-6412US

((MailingTitle))

((Mailing))((Mailing2))

((Mailing4))

((Mailing5))

STATEMENT SUPPORTING PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER M.P.E.P. § 708.02 X

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attention: Special Program Examiner for relevant group art unit

Sir:

I declare that I am one of the applicants of application serial no. 10/817,164.

I declare that the application relates to HIV/AIDS in the following manner. The dry fluid spot (DFS) technology described in the application is applicable to HIV testing. For example, the application describes a DFS filter suitable for collecting a fluid sample from a subject, wherein the fluid sample may be dried, stored and subsequently transported to another location for the HIV testing. In this manner, a fluid sample may be taken from a subject in a resource-poor setting, *i.e.*, a setting or location that does not have the capabilities or equipment to perform

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a suitable HIV test. With the DFS filter described in the application, the dried fluid sample may be transported to a facility that is capable of performing nucleic acid amplification/detection techniques and, thus, able to determine the presence or absence of HIV in the dried fluid sample.

Thus, as the subject matter of the application contributes to the diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, expedited prosecution of the application in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 708.02 X is sought.

10-05-2004

Signature of applicant, Date

EUGENE TIMMERMANS

Printed name of applicant

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